

January 30, 2001

Roger LeBlanc
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Kirkland, WA 98033

9802 '01 FEB -6 AM :23

U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: docket number 98P-0151/CP1

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to urge you to grant the petition that would prohibit the slaughter of downed farm animals for food. For ethical reasons and to protect human health, this regulation should be enacted.

The practice of slaughtering sick and disabled farm animals is inhumane to animals and extremely dangerous to human health. This petition will make U.S. animal agricultural practices more humane, healthy, and sustainable. Adopting docket number 98P-0151/CP1 will create an economic disincentive to the gross mistreatment of farm animals and will greatly decrease the risk of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) that is currently on the increase in Europe.

Industry experts estimate that 90% of the cases of downed animals can be prevented with better care and handling. Without a market to reward careless and inhumane treatment of farm animals, corporate farms will be forced to re-engineer their animal agriculture systems. The result will be healthier animals and less risk that the edible products of animal slaughter will not cause disease to U.S. consumers.

Please grant the petition to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals, docket number 98P-0151/CP1.

Sincerely,



Roger LeBlanc

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